

Jamaica Gender Portfolio

COVID-19 Gender
Transformative Response

Forged New Partnerships & Strengthened Existing Partnerships

- Launched the Spotlight Initiative on March 9, 2020.
- Through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Repurposed EnGenDER Project
- Ongoing consultations were done with key community groups and civil society organizations from different parishes regarding the differential needs of men and women during the pandemic.

Forged New Partnerships & Strengthened Existing Partnerships

- Provided meaningful engagement of key publics and multiple stakeholders;
- UNICEF provided the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation with laptops and telephones for both staff and students during the stay-at-home period. UNICEF also provided funding for the training of the managers and counsellors to deliver Psychological First Aid.
- UNFPA provided funding through the Spotlight Initiative for training of the counsellors at the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation to identify and treat with Gender-Based Violence.

Programmes/Initiatives to Eliminate GBV:

- Provided meaningful engagement of key publics and multiple stakeholders;
- Opening of the first National Shelter for Victims of Gender-based Violence;
- BGA provided Care Packages to two hundred and forty-five (245) (52M; 193F) beneficiaries to offset some of their immediate financial burdens, as a result of the pandemic. The Care Packages were delivered during the period of April –June 2020;

Programmes/Initiatives to Eliminate GBV:

- REFOCUS Perpetrators Programme to reduce incidences of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). To provide an alternative conflict resolution programme, through psycho-educational support;
- Creation of knowledge products in Braille to ensure that individuals who are visually impaired will have access to information about the services offered for victims of GBV at the BGA;

Programmes/Initiatives to Eliminate GBV:

- Phased and strategic implementation of the Ministry's 10 year National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence (NSAP-GBV). Done in partnership and collaboration to challenge the normalization of gender-based violence, build resilience and provide empowerment before, during and after periods of disasters;
- Increased the number of messages circulated through the BGA's social media platforms re: social distancing and services offered for victims of GBV. Special focus was placed on women who were currently trapped in abusive or toxic situations or were potential victims of intimate partner violence;

Programmes/Initiatives to Eliminate GBV:

- Robust needs-based situational analyses to determine the scope and impact disasters such as the COVID-19 pandemic on women's health, safety and security;
- Increased support to victims and survivors of Gender-based Violence and provided a gender-differential response and options in case of intimate partner violence incidences;
- Increased social media presence under the “No Excuse For Abuse” Campaign to ensure that the public is aware of the Helplines for the current shelter for domestic violence and Helplines to report intimate partner violence and other forms of Gender-based Violence;

Programmes/Initiatives to Eliminate GBV:

- Increased allocation in the Bureau's Budget for the FY 2020/2021 to provide additional Grant Funding for seven (7) existing community/advocacy groups as second time recipients under Phase 2 of the Community Outreach through Partnership for Empowerment (COPE) Initiative;
- Ramped up the COPE Initiative to include two (2) new groups from the community for persons with disabilities (i.e. Jamaica Society for the Blind and the Jamaica Association for the Deaf);
- Under Phase 2 of the COPE Initiative, nine (9) groups received monthly grants to support the Ministry's efforts to eliminate Gender-based Violence in keeping with the five (5) Strategic Priorities Areas of the NSAP-GBV;

Programmes/Initiatives to Eliminate GBV:

- Five (5) billboards with GBV anti-violence messages were placed in key spots in Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine and Manchester.
- The BGA is working to have these billboards displayed across the fourteen (14) parishes, to ensure that victims of GBV can have information readily available to them and can receive the support required;

Support Provided to Young Adolescent Mothers

- The pandemic provided opportunities to increase public awareness of the work of the Women's Centre Foundation of Jamaica through dissemination of the findings of the survey that the organization conducted on the impact of the pandemic on the adolescent mothers. Other entities also displayed interest in research opportunities surrounding the adolescent mothers and the pandemic.
- Much creativity was exercised in an attempt to remain in contact with the adolescent mothers and to continue to meet their welfare needs: WhatsApp groups were formed; the centres were zoned to share and make the best use of the limited resources.

Support Provided to Young Adolescent Mothers

- The CSEC candidates were facilitated at the schools nearest to their homes for the sitting of the 2020 examinations, instead of sitting the examinations at the Kingston Centre which is the designated examination centre.
- The increased information technology training on various software and online applications for staff at the Women's Centre Foundation of Jamaica.

Measures to Revive and Expand Economic Activity During and After the Pandemic

- Increased partnership with International Development Partners to provide financial and technical support for the programmes and initiatives of the BGA & WCJF.
- Increased Multi-sectoral Approach - Gender is a crosscutting issue and therefore the strategic and balanced partnerships across all sectors will be required.
- Ongoing Participatory Approach - A participatory approach is necessary to enable all stakeholders to offer meaningful contribution to achieve gender equality and eliminate GBV.

Measures to Revive and Expand Economic Activity During and After the Pandemic

- Increased virtual sensitization/awareness-raising sessions on gender equality and GBV - This will be done through the No Excuse for Abuse (#NEFA) Campaign.
- Increased visual and audio knowledge products on the importance of eliminating GBV and achieving gender equality.
- Continued implementation of the Gender Ambassadors Programme.

Measures to Revive and Expand Economic Activity During and After the Pandemic

- Increased number of beneficiaries under the Community Outreach through Partnership for Empowerment (COPE) Initiative.
- Continued implementation of the Men and Masculinity programmes and initiatives.
- Increased number of Gender Focal Points in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the public sector.

Measures to Revive and Expand Economic Activity During and After the Pandemic

- **Increased Financial Literacy Workshops to empower women and men who own and operate micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This will equip them with the practical financial knowledge of financial literacy and skills needed to become better entrepreneurs during and after the pandemic.**



thank you!